



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Spencer Mine - NM0098

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Section 8, Centennial, State No. 1-27 claims

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 22'25.23" Longitude 107 degrees 49'16.58"



City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 09/1/09

Author: NMED

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund <table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High											
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low											
<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA												
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM													
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: <u>BLM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
SEND SSSR COPIES TO: <input type="checkbox"/> 6SF-AC <input type="checkbox"/> 6WQ-SP <input type="checkbox"/> ATSDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Agency				

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment on February 13, 2008 at the Spencer Mine site. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a site assessment on June 2, 2009. The mine operated as a wet mine. MMD measured maximum gamma radiation readings of 320 uR/hr at the mine site. Both MMD and NMED observed a vent shaft and a headframe that has collapsed into the mine shaft. The mine shaft is poorly fenced. There are numerous waste rock piles located by an arroyo and there is evidence that wastes have been distributed downstream; the waste rock is from both the Spencer and Isabella South Mines. The maximum radiation reading at the mine site was 607 counts per second during NMED's site visit. There are several residences within three miles of the mine site, and the closest well is a livestock well a little more than one mile from the mine site with a total uranium concentration of 98.4 ug/l. The land surface and mineral rights are held by the Bureau of Land Management.

NMED recommended that action be taken at the site to remove waste piles with elevated radioactivity and to plug the open shaft and vent hole. NMED also recommended that the mine site be further assessed under CERCLA to characterize the extent of site-derived waste dispersion along the drainages and impacts to groundwater.

In August 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the northwestern portion of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Spencer Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Spencer Mine site were not statistically greater than

background readings in the area.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, August 2011, the Spencer Mine will be addressed by the Bureau of Land Management.

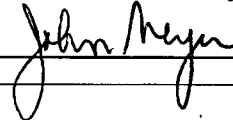
APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by: Lisa Marie Price
(Site Assessment Manager)

Signature: 

Date: 11/25/11

Disposition
Approved by: John Meyer
(Section Chief 6SF-TR)

Signature: 

Date: 11/29/11